

O 202035Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1158
INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 0713

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 BUENOS AIRES 001662

STATE FOR WHA AND WHA/BSC
PASS NSC FOR HUGO LLORENS, JOANNA WALLACE AND JASON SINGER
PASS FED BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR PATRICE ROBITAILLE
EX-IM BANK FOR MICHELE WILKINS
TREASURY FOR IA NANCY LEE, HEIDI CRUZ, BILL BLOCK, JAMES
JOHN AND RAMIN TOLUI, AND FOR OCC CARLOS HERNANDEZ
USDOC FOR ALEXANDER PEACHER
USDOL FOR ILAB PAULA CHURCH
USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2013

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: PRESIDENT-ELECT KIRCHNER NAMES CABINET

REF: A. 02 BUENOS AIRES 4283

[1](#)B. 02 BUENOS AIRES 3442

CLASSIFIED BY: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION MILTON DRUCKER. REASON 1.5 (D).

[1](#)1. (U) SUMMARY. PRESIDENT-ELECT NESTOR KIRCHNER ANNOUNCED THE COMPOSITION OF HIS CABINET ON MAY 20. AS KIRCHNER HAD STATED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, ROBERTO LAVAGNA WILL CONTINUE ON AS ECONOMY MINISTER. THE BIGGEST SURPRISES WERE HIS SELECTION OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS EXPERT RAFAEL BIELSA AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND MEDICAL DOCTOR AND STAUNCH DUHALDISTA JOSE PAMPURO AS DEFENSE MINISTER, GIVEN THAT NEITHER HAS MUCH EXPERIENCE IN EITHER AREA. CLOSE KIRCHNER ASSOCIATE ALBERTO FERNANDEZ, WHO WAS THE EMBASSY'S CLOSEST CONTACT IN THE KIRCHNER CAMPAIGN, WILL SERVE AS CHIEF OF CABINET. OF THE 13 CABINET-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS, FIVE ARE LOYAL KIRCHNER ASSOCIATES, FOUR ARE CARRYOVERS FROM THE DUHALDE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE REMAINING FOUR ARE MORE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT - ORIENTED. END SUMMARY.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT KIRCHNER'S CABINET

[1](#)2. (U) PRESIDENT-ELECT NESTOR KIRCHNER ANNOUNCED THE MAKEUP OF HIS CABINET ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 20 FROM HIS HOME PROVINCE OF SANTA CRUZ, WHERE HE HAS SERVED AS GOVERNOR FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS.

-- THE ONLY STRUCTURAL INNOVATION IN KIRCHNER'S CABINET WILL BE THE CREATION OF A MINISTRY OF FEDERAL PLANNING, PUBLIC INVESTMENT, AND SERVICES -- REFLECTING KIRCHNER'S PREFERENCE AS SANTA CRUZ GOVERNOR FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE, THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION WILL REVERT TO ITS PREVIOUS STATUS AS PART OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WILL BE CALLED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE. (UNDER THE ARGENTINE CONSTITUTION, THE CHIEF OF CABINET PRESIDES OVER A CABINET OF TEN OTHER MINISTERS. THE POSTS OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY OF STATE INTELLIGENCE ARE LOOSELY REFERRED TO AS CABINET-LEVEL POSTS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT STRICTLY SPEAKING CABINET POSTS AS THE CONSTITUTION DEFINES IT.)

-- AT LEAST FIVE OF THE APPOINTMENTS ARE CLOSE KIRCHNER ASSOCIATES. ALBERTO FERNANDEZ, HIS CLOSEST ADVISOR (OTHER THAN PERHAPS HIS WIFE CHRISTINA FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER), WILL SERVE AS CHIEF OF CABINET. THE OTHERS INCLUDE JULIO DE VIDO (FEDERAL PLANNING, PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND SERVICES), PRESIDENTIAL SISTER ALICIA KIRCHNER (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT), OSCAR PARRILLI (SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY), AND SERGIO ACEVEDO (SECRETARY FOR STATE INTELLIGENCE).

-- KIRCHNER RETAINED FOUR OF DUHALDE'S HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, ECONOMY MINISTER ROBERTO LAVAGNA AND HEALTH MINISTER GINES GONZALEZ GARCIA APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN MORE ON THEIR OWN MERITS THAN FOR ANY TIES THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH DUHALDE. THE TWO DIEHARD DUHALDE LOYALISTS IN KIRCHNER'S CABINET WILL BE JOSE PAMPURO (DEFENSE, FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY) AND ANIBAL FERNANDEZ (INTERIOR, FORMERLY MINISTER OF PRODUCTION).

-- KIRCHNER SELECTED TWO CURRENT MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TO HIS CABINET, RAFAEL BIELSA (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND GUSTAVO BELIZ (JUSTICE). CHOOSING BOTH OF THEM TO HIS CABINET GIVES KIRCHNER MORE FLEXIBILITY TO SUPPORT CURRENT MAYOR ANIBAL IBARRA IN THE AUGUST 24 ELECTIONS, WHERE IBARRA WILL COMPETE AGAINST THE FRONTRUNNER, BUSINESSMAN MAURICO MACRI. A MEMBER OF IBARRA'S ADMINISTRATION IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, MINISTER OF EDUCATION DANIEL FILMUS, WILL SERVE IN KIRCHNER'S CABINET AS WELL.

KIRCHNER'S CABINET: BIOGRAPHICAL COMMENTS

13. (C) CHIEF OF CABINET: ALBERTO FERNANDEZ. FERNANDEZ IS A 44-YEAR-OLD LOCAL PJ LEGISLATOR IN THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES AND AN EXPERT IN CRIMINAL LAW WITH A PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE. HE HAS DIRECTED KIRCHNER'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN EFFORT FROM THE BEGINNING AND HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF KIRCHNER'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. IN THE LATE 1980S, HE HELD MID-LEVEL POSTS IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, AND IN 1989, WAS NAMED NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE. DURING 1996-2000, HE SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR BAPRO, ONE OF THE GOVERNING ENTITIES OF THE BANCO DE LA PROVINCIA DE BUENOS AIRES. HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE CITY LEGISLATURE FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL IN 2000. POLOFFS HAVE FOUND FERNANDEZ TO BE ARTICULATE AND FORTHCOMING INTERLOCUTOR, AND QUITE OPEN TO PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH THE EMBASSY -- IN STARK CONTRAST TO KIRCHNER.

14. (C) MINISTER OF INTERIOR: ANIBAL FERNANDEZ. PRIOR TO BECOMING DUHALDE'S MINISTER OF PRODUCTION IN OCTOBER 2002, HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT DUHALDE'S FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY, A HIGH-PROFILE JOB (RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENTIAL SPENDING AND POLICY ARTICULATION WITH OTHER MINISTERS) DURING A TURBULENT PERIOD IN ARGENTINE HISTORY. FERNANDEZ GAINED POLITICAL PROMINENCE IN THE BUENOS AIRES PJ MACHINE BY SERVING AS MAYOR OF THE WORKING CLASS BUENOS AIRES SUBURB OF QUILMES AND LATER, IN 2001, AS THEN-GOVERNOR CARLOS RUCKAUF'S MINISTER OF LABOR. HE FACED DRAMATIC CONFRONTATIONS DURING HIS TENURE AS MAYOR AND PROVINCIAL LABOR MINISTER, INCLUDING HAVING FACED CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND HAVING BEEN BRIEFLY HELD HOSTAGE IN THE MINISTRY BY PIQUETERO FAMILIES DEMANDING RENEWAL OF JOB SUBSIDIES. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH THE CHARGES WERE NEVER FULLY SUBSTANTIATED, EMBASSY CONTACTS ALLEGED THAT WHILE PROVINCIAL LABOR MINISTER, FERNANDEZ AND OTHER PJ PROVINCIAL LEADERS NOT ONLY REMAINED PASSIVE WHILE THE LOOTINGS AND VIOLENCE RAGED IN DECEMBER 2001 AND ULTIMATELY LED TO PRESIDENT FERNANDO DE LA RUA'S RESIGNATION, BUT ACTIVELY STIMULATED THE UNREST. THE 46-YEAR-OLD FERNANDEZ IS A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND LAWYER BY TRAINING. IN THE ARGENTINE SYSTEM, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR'S CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY IS MANAGING THE GOA'S CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROVINCES. (THIS AND ADDITIONAL BIO INFORMATION ON FERNANDEZ WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REF A).

15. (U) MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE, AND WORSHIP: RAFAEL BIELSA. A LAWYER BY TRAINING, BIELSA IS AN EXPERT IN JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND A

STRONG ADVOCATE FOR JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY. HIS PERONIST CREDENTIALS DATE BACK TO THE 1970S, BUT HE AFFILIATED WITH FREPASO, A PERONIST SPLINTER GROUP, IN THE 1990S. DURING THE DE LA RUA ADMINISTRATION, BIELSA SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR JUDICIAL REFORM AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE. HIS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DE LA RUA'S INTELLIGENCE SECRETARY FERNANDO DE SANTIBANEZ FOR MISUSING FUNDS LED TO THE LATTER'S RESIGNATION IN OCTOBER 2000. THE 50-YEAR-OLD BIELSA RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES AND ALSO STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. HIS BROTHER MARCELO IS THE COACH OF THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM. BIELSA WAS A SURPRISE CHOICE FOR THIS POST, HAVING BEEN RUMORED INSTEAD AS KIRCHNER'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE. A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ANTICIPATES HE WILL KEEP MARTIN REDRADO ON AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER.

16. (U) MINISTER OF DEFENSE: JOSE PAMPURO. AS REPORTED IN REF B, PAMPURO SERVED AS DUHALDE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY IN 2002, BECOMING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY IN OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR. A MEDICAL SURGEON BY TRAINING, HE WAS MINISTER OF HEALTH OF THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES DURING DUHALDE'S TENURE AS GOVERNOR IN THE 1990S. HE ALSO SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS A NATIONAL DEPUTY IN THE LATE 1980S. HE AND DUHALDE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR 20 YEARS, AND HE ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE CURRENT PRESIDENT TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT HE ONCE DECLARED, "I AM DUHALDE." THE 53-YEAR-OLD PAMPURO SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ONCE TOOK A SIX-MONTH SPECIALIZATION COURSE AT MT. SINAI HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK.

17. (U) MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PRODUCTION: ROBERTO LAVAGNA. DUHALDE'S CURRENT MINISTER OF ECONOMY WAS THE ONLY NAME EXPLICITLY ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE BY THEN-CANDIDATE KIRCHNER PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. ONE INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF KIRCHNER'S CAMPAIGN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT KIRCHNER HAS MET WITH LAVAGNA FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR PER DAY SINCE KIRCHNER ANNOUNCED THAT LAVAGNA WOULD BE HIS CHOICE FOR ECONOMY MINISTER.

18. (C) MINISTER OF FEDERAL PLANNING, PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND SERVICES: JULIO DE VIDO. WHILE SERVING AS KIRCHNER'S MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT OF SANTA CRUZ, DE VIDO COORDINATED THE TECHNICAL TEAM THAT PREPARED THE CANDIDATE'S PLAN OF GOVERNMENT (SEPTEL). DE VIDO WAS BORN IN SANTA CRUZ AND IS CONSIDERED CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. HE FORMERLY SERVED AS THE PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF ECONOMY UNDER KIRCHNER. DURING A MAY 14 MEETING WITH ECONCOUNS, DE VIDO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE KIRCHNER ADMINISTRATION WOULD PAY TO RUNNING A PRIMARY FISCAL SURPLUS "FROM DAY ONE."

19. (U) MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SECURITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS: GUSTAVO BELIZ. ONCE VIEWED AS FORMER PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM'S PROTEGE BEFORE THEIR FALLING OUT, BELIZ WAS NAMED MENEM'S INTERIOR MINISTER IN 1992 WHILE ONLY 30 YEARS OLD. HE RESIGNED THE POST A YEAR LATER, ALLEGING THAT HIS EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP THE MINISTRY'S ADMINISTRATION WERE BEING THWARTED BY OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT. A PERSISTENT CRITIC OF CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL MANIPULATION OF THE JUDICIARY, HE RESIGNED HIS PJ PARTY MEMBERSHIP IN EARLY 1996. UNDER HIS OWN "NEW LEADERSHIP PARTY" BANNER, HE RAN A SURPRISINGLY STRONG BUT UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL THAT YEAR. IN 2000, HE RAN AS DOMINGO CAVALLO'S RUNNING MATE IN THE MAYORAL RACE FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, BUT CAVALLO WAS DEFEATED BY CURRENT MAYOR ANIBAL IBARRA. BELIZ'S ATTEMPT TO WIN A NATIONAL SENATE SEAT FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL IN 2001 ENDED UP IN A STILL-UNRESOLVED COURT DISPUTE WITH SOCIALIST CANDIDATE ALFREDO BRAVO. THE 40-YEAR-OLD BELIZ HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. IN THE PRESS, BELIZ'S AUSTERE LIFESTYLE AND DEVOUT CATHOLICISM ARE HIS TWO MOST FREQUENTLY CITED PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES.

110. (U) MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: DANIEL FILMUS. THE 47-YEAR-OLD FILMUS IS CURRENTLY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, WHERE HIS WORK WAS PRAISED BY THEN-CANDIDATE KIRCHNER. FILMUS RECEIVED HIS UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES IN 1977 AND HIS MASTERS DEGREE FROM THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY FLUMINENSE

(BRAZIL) IN 1989.

¶11. (U) MINISTER OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY: CARLOS TOMADA. THE LAWYER TOMADA HAS SERVED IN VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE LABOR MINISTRY OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING HAVING HEADED THE SECTION CHARGED WITH RESOLVING LABOR - MANAGEMENT DISPUTES. MOST RECENTLY, HE WAS THE SECRETARY OF LABOR -- ESSENTIALLY, DEPUTY MINISTER -- IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE DUHALDE GOVERNMENT UNDER THEN-MINISTER ALFREDO ATANASOF. TOMADA RESIGNED THAT POSITION WHEN ATANASOF LEFT THE MINISTRY TO BECOME CHIEF OF STAFF AND GRACIELA CAMANO BECAME MINISTER. TOMADA HAS HIS OWN LAW OFFICE AND, AS A PROFESSOR, HAS HEADED THE LABOR RELATIONS PROGRAM OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. IN 1990, THE EMBASSY SENT TOMADA ON AN INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM, AND HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHES SINCE THEN, PARTICULARLY IN PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, SUCH AS MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION. IN THE ARGENTINE SYSTEM, THE POST OF LABOR MINISTER IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE MINISTRY HAS ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF MANY OF THE EMPLOYMENT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING OVER 2 MILLION BENEFICIARIES IN THE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD SUBSIDY ALONE.

¶12. (U) MINISTER OF HEALTH: GINES GONZALEZ GARCIA. PRESIDENT DUHALDE APPOINTED GONZALEZ GARCIA AS HIS MINISTER OF HEALTH IN OCTOBER 2002. DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, KIRCHNER HAD GIVEN SIGNALS THAT GONZALEZ GARCIA WOULD STAY IN THAT POST WERE HE TO WIN THE PRESIDENCY, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC ACCLAIM HE ENJOYED AS A RESULT OF HIS POLICIES TO LOWER DRUG PRICES. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE 57-YEAR-OLD MINISTER-DESIGNATE HAS A LONG-STANDING ACQUAINTANCE WITH KIRCHNER. GONZALEZ GARCIA RECEIVED HIS MEDICAL DEGREE FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA IN 1968 AND IS A MEMBER OF NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ARGENTINA AND ABROAD, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

¶13. (U) MINISTER OF SOCIAL ACTION: ALICIA KIRCHNER. KIRCHNER'S OLDER SISTER CURRENTLY SERVES IN THIS CAPACITY IN KIRCHNER'S GUBERNATORIAL ADMINISTRATION IN SANTA CRUZ. ALICIA KIRCHNER HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR THIS POSITION FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS; THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S ONLY DOUBTS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED THE ADVISABILITY OF NAMING A RELATIVE TO A CABINET POST.

¶14. (U) SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY: OSCAR PARRILLI. KIRCHNER'S TOP CAMPAIGN ADVISOR IN THE PROVINCE OF NEUQUEN, PARRILLI IS AN EX-NATIONAL DEPUTY AND PROVINCIAL LAWMAKER. ALONG WITH KIRCHNER'S WIFE, SENATOR CHRISTINA FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER, HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE VIOLENCE FOMENTED BY PJ SENATOR LUIS BARRIONUEVO IN CATAMARCA IN EARLY MARCH 2002 THAT LED TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS THERE. OF ALL THE PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY KIRCHNER, PARRILLI IS PERHAPS THE LEAST KNOWN.

¶15. (C) SECRETARY FOR STATE INTELLIGENCE (SIDE): SERGIO ACEVEDO. ACEVEDO IS A 47-YEAR-OLD NATIONAL DEPUTY FROM KIRCHNER'S HOME PROVINCE OF SANTA CRUZ AND HAS SERVED IN RECENT YEARS AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE IN THE LOWER HOUSE. IN THAT CAPACITY, HE SPEARHEADED EFFORTS IN 2002 TO IMPEACH ALL NINE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, AN EFFORT THAT ULTIMATELY FELL SHORT OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AFTER THE DUHALDE ADMINISTRATION ABANDONED ITS INITIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPEACHMENT EFFORT. ACEVEDO FIRST SERVED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DURING THE PERIOD 1995-1999, THEN SERVED AS KIRCHNER'S VICE GOVERNOR IN SANTA CRUZ DURING 1999-2001, BEFORE RETURNING TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN 2001. ACEVEDO IS A LAWYER BY TRAINING, HAVING RECEIVED HIS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES IN 1979. AS HEAD OF ARGENTINA'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, ACEVEDO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ESPIONAGE; SIDE ALSO IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GOA COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS. SIDE HAS A LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN DOMESTIC POLITICS FOR WHICH IT UTILIZES A LARGE NON-TRANSPARENT BUDGET PROCESS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. HIS APPOINTMENT IS CLEARLY BASED MORE ON THE FACT THAT HE IS A CLOSE CONFIDANT

OF KIRCHNER THAN ON ANY BACKGROUND IN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.
HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE LEFT WING OF THE PERONIST PARTY AND
HIS RUMORED HISTORY AS A FORMER MONTENERO GUERRILLA IN THE
1970S, RAISE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT HIS INCLINATIONS ON FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION.

WALSH